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Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.23

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.23, the General Assembly would welcome the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and endorse the proposals, recommendations and conclusions contained in paragraphs 33 to 136 of its report (A/55/1024).

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Operations (A/55/977). In that report the Secretary-General presented the findings of the first in-depth and comprehensive managerial examination of the way in which the Organization plans, deploys, conducts and supports peacekeeping operations. The report argues that the core capacities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations require considerable strengthening. It presents the outlines of a global strategy for civilian staffing of peacekeeping operations to address critical shortcomings in the current system. The report argues that, in order to strengthen the core capacities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as to meet the challenges of rapid and effective deployment, adjustments will be required to the organizational structure of the Department and to its staffing levels. Additional resources for the Department are also necessary so that it can be afforded the necessary time and flexibility required to interact with Member States more frequently, with greater transparency and in a more timely manner, in particular with the members of the Security Council, as well as troop, police and financial contributors. The report underlines the need to strengthen the capacities of the Department of Management,

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the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Legal Affairs so that they can more effectively support United Nations peacekeeping operations.

3. Following consideration of the report, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations has made a number of proposals, recommendations and conclusions relating to the findings as presented in that report. The implementation of those proposals, recommendations and conclusions would give rise to additional requirements in the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/271 of 14 June 2001, as well as in the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

4. These additional requirements are estimated not to exceed $30 million. Detailed resource requirements on the implementation of the proposals, conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations will be provided to the Fifth Committee for its examination and advice to the General Assembly.